

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
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USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 3059

LONDON PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SPIERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PORS, ASEC, TECH, MNUC, PARM, TU
SUBJ: GOT AND OPPOSITION REACTION TO PARCEL BOMBING AND RIOTS IN
MALATYA

REF: ADANA 103

1. SUMMARY: BOMBING INCIDENT APRIL 18 WHICH KILLED MAYOR
OF MALATYA AND LED TO RIOTING HAS PRODUCED STRONG GOVERNMENT AND
OPPOSITION REACTION. MININT OZAYDINLI, BACKED BY PRIMIN ECEVIT,
DEPLORED TWO RECENT PARCEL BOMBINGS AND ACCUSED RIGHT-WING
COMMANDOS WORKING AT THE ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER IN
ANKARA OF MAKING AND SENDING THE CONVENTIONAL BOMBS. OPPOSITION
LEADERS FLEW TO MALATYA APRIL 18 FOR THE MAYOR'S FUNERAL, AND THE
OPPOSITION PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE
THAT ECEVIT CANNOT CONTROL VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY

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2. APRIL 17 BOMBING INCIDENT AND FOLLOWING DAY'S RIOT IN
MALATYA (REPORTED REFTTEL) HAVE LED TO RAPID GOVERNMENT REACTION.
FOLLOWING AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S
PARTY (RPP) JOINT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, MININT OZAYDINLI
TOLD REPORTERS THAT SECURITY FORCES AND MILITARY UNITS HAD THE
CITY UNDER CONTROL. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR
MARTIAL LAW. ALSO SPEAKING TO REPORTERS, DEPPRIMIN ORHAN

EYUBOGLU, WHO IS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING GOVERNMENT SECURITY STRATEGY, ANNOUNCED IMPOSITION OF CURFEW IN MALATYA.

3. IN HIS LENGTHY STATEMENT TO REPORTERS, OZAYDINLI ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS EVIDENCE THAT THE BOMB WHICH KILLED THE MAYOR, HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN AND A SIMILAR PARCEL BOMB WHICH KILLED AN INQUISITIVE POSTAL EMPLOYEE NEAR MARAS THE DAY BEFORE WERE MADE BY RIGHTISTS AT THE ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER IN ANKARA. ACCORDING TO OZAYDINLI, A FORMER LEADER OF THE RIGHT-WING YOUTH ORGANIZATION ULKU OCAKLARI, MUHARREM SEMSEK, WHO WAS EMPLOYED AT THE CENTER, WAS ARRESTED ON APRIL 17 AND ACCUSED OF COOPERATING WITH OTHER ULKU OCAKLARI "COMMANDOS" IN THE MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. OZAYDINLI IMPLIED THAT THE RADICAL RIGHTISTS CHOSE MALATYA AND MARAS AS TARGETS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT POLITICAL TENSION WAS RUNNING HIGH IN BOTH AREAS.

4. SPEAKING ABOUT THE INCIDENT LATER ON APRIL 18, PRIMIN ECEVIT CONFIRMED THE MININT'S ACCUSATION THAT THE PARCEL BOMBS WERE MADE AT THE ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER, WHICH WAS CREATED BY THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT OF SULEYMAN DEMIERL (1975-77) AND ALLEGEDLY PACKED WITH SUPPORTERS OF ALPARSLAN TURKES' NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP). CLAIMING THAT THE CENTER IS STILL 'OCCUPIED' BY RIGHTIST COMMANDOS, ECEVIT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY. WHEN INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEWS BY REPORTERS, THE HEAD OF THE CENTER ASSERTED THAT MATERIALS FOR MAKING EXPLOSIVES ARE NOT AVAILABLE THERE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN FROM OUTSIDE.

5. LEADING MEMBERS OF TURKEY'S OPPOSITION PARTIES FLEW TO MALATYA ON APRIL 18 FOR THE MAYOR'S FUNERAL. THE SOMBER GROUP, LED BY FORMER PRIMIN DEMIREL AND FORMER DEPPRIMINS TURKES AND ERBAKAN, DID NOT MAKE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, BUT OPPOSITION PAPERS ON APRIL 19 PLAYED UP REPORTS OF RIOTING AND THE USE OF ARMY AND JANDARMA UNITS TO RESTORE PEACE. OPPOSITION COLUMNISTS EMPHASIZED THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE SINCE ECEVIT CAME TO POWER AND HIS FAILURE TO BRING IT UNDER CONTROL. AT LEAST ONE LEFTIST NEWSPAPER, ON THE OTHER HAND, COMMENTED THAT THE INCIDENTS IN MALATYA ARE YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CIA OPERATIVES' EFFORTS TO UNDERCUT TURKEY'S GOVERNMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 3059

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6. COMMENT: OZAYDINLP'S RAPID ALLEGATION THAT THE BOMBING CAN BE TRACED TO ULKU OCAKLARI CADRES IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER SEEMS TO INDICATE THATO THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO SECURITY OFFICIALS MUST BE STRONG. BUT THE RIOTERS IN MALATYA CLEARLY BELIEVED THAT RPP SUPPORTERS WERE BEHIND THE INCIDENT. END COMMENT

7. THE MAYOR OF MALATYA, HAMIT FENDOGLU, WAS ELECTED IN DECEMBER 1977 AS AN INDEPENDENT WITH THE BACKING OF THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP), NAP, AND NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) WHICH DID NOT FIELD THEIR OWN CANDIDATES. MALATYA IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED AN RPP STRONGHOLD, AND FENDOGLU'S ELECTION VICTORY WAS MADE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER 2-3,000 VOTES FOR THE RPP'S CANDIDATE WERE INVALIDATED. THE RPP CHALLENGED THE ELECTION RESULTS BEFORE TH HIGH ELECTION BOARD WHICH RULED THAT THE BALLOTS IN QUESTION WERE CASTO IMPROPERLY AND INVALIDATED FOR JUST CAUSE. FENDOGLU WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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A JP DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE MID-1960'S. HE WAS KNOWN AS A CONSTANT HECKLER OF THE OPPOSITION AND A BRAWLER, AND HE REPORTEDLY CARRIED A GUN WHILE ON THE FLOOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. AFTER A FALLING OQT WITH THE JP,

HE RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE NSPO LIST IN 1973.

8. OZAYDINLI SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THE ANOMALY OF RIGHTISTS APPARENTLY KILLING ONE OF THEIR OWN IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS. HE SAID THAT FOR SOME TIME MALATYA HAS BEEN READY TO EXPLODE BECAUSE OF LAND DISPUTES AND POLITICAL TENSIONS (APPARENTLY BETWEEN TURKS AND KURDS, ALEVI AND SUNNI MUSLEMS). ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY WAS A CATALYST. FURTHERMORE, IN THE SMALL TOWN NEAR MARAS WHERE THE FIRST PARCEL BOMB INTENDED FOR A PROMINENT LOCAL RPP MEMBER EXPLODED, OZAYDINLI NOTED THAT RECENTLY RIGHT-WING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN INCITED TO THROW BOMBS AT THEIR OWN SCHOOLS AND THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE ULKU OCAKLARI.

9. OZAYDINLI'S ANALYSIS IS BORNE OUT IN PART BY NAP LEADER TURKES, WHO IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ ON APRIL 4 COMMENTED THAT THERE ARE EXTREME RIGHTIST GROUPS OUTSIDE HIS PARTY CARRYING OUT ACTS OF VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO TURKES, THESE INDIVIDUALS, LIKE THEIR RADICAL LEFTIST COUNTERPARTS, SEEK TO UNDERMINE TURKISH DEMOCRACY. WHILE IN GOVERNMENT, TURKES REPORTEDLY EXERCISED CONTROL OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ULKU OCAKLARI. HIS COMMENTS TO SOLARZ MAY INDICATE HE HAS LOST CONTROL AND THE RADICAL RIGHT, LIKE THE RADICAL LEFT IN TURKEY, IS SPLINTERING AS ITS LEADERS DISAGREE ON TIMING AND TACTICS.

10. COMMENT: THE TWO PARCEL BOMB EXPLOSIONS THIS WEEK AND A CAR BOMB WHICH EXPLODED IN A BUSY SECTION OF ANKARA LAST WEEK
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KILLING SEVEN STUDENTS REPRESENT A FURTHER ESCALATION IN VIOLENCE AND A CHALLENGE TO THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT. ITS FAILURE TO CHECK THE GROWING TIDE OF VIOLENCE IS POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING AND WILL BE ADDRESSED SEPTU.
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